The Consumer Price Index increased 0.9% in April 2018.

Over the last twelve months, the Index for Food increased 1.7%. The Index for Meats increased 7.6% over the last year. The Indexes for Beef and Poultry both had increases above 7.0%. The Index for Bakery and Cereal Products increased 4.8% over the same period. The Index for Sugars, Jams, Confectionery rose 6.0%.

In contrast, the Index for Dairy Products declined 4.4% and the Index for Fruits and Vegetables decreased 3.9%.

The Index for Non-Alcoholic Beverages rose 2.1%.

The Index for All Items Less Food and Energy rose 0.7% over the past twelve months. The Index for Medical Expenses increased 1.2% in the last twelve months with the Index for Pharmaceuticals rising 6.5%. The Index for Clothing and Footwear rose 1.0%.

Indexes that declined over the twelve months included Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco and Personal Services.

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.6% in April after falling 0.1% in March. The Food Index rose 0.5% after 0.3% decrease in the previous month. Five of the main major supermarket food groups indexes increased. The Index for Bakery and Cereal Products rose 1.2% its largest increase since September 2017.

The Index for Meats remained 0.6% as was in March. The Indexes for Fruits and Vegetables and Sugars, Jams, Confectionery rose 0.7% in April. Both indexes rose following decreases of 3.0% in March.

The other remaining major food groups indexes declined modestly over the one-month period ending April.

The Energy Index has remained unchanged.

The Index for All Items Less Food and Energy rose 0.7%. The Index for Clothing and Footwear rose 3.0%. Women’s Apparel Index increased 12% and the Index for Footwear by 2.8%. The Index for Repairs and Maintenance of Personal Transportation increased 6.6%.

### Headline Inflation: Year-on-Year Changes for Apr 2018 compared to Apr 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>All Items</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco</th>
<th>Clothing and Footwear</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Furnishings, Supplies and Operations</th>
<th>Fuel and Light</th>
<th>Transportation and Communication</th>
<th>Medical Expenses</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Personal Services</th>
<th>Other (Misc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Index Contribution (Year-on-Year % Change)</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>(1.2)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>(1.3)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Month-to-Month Changes for Apr 2018 compared to Mar 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>All Items</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco</th>
<th>Clothing and Footwear</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Furnishings, Supplies and Operations</th>
<th>Fuel and Light</th>
<th>Transportation and Communication</th>
<th>Medical Expenses</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Personal Services</th>
<th>Other (Misc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Index Contribution (Year-on-Year % Change)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>(0.9)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>(1.6)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Chart 1: Change in Index Contribution for Apr 2018 Inflation](chart.png)
### Table 1: Examples of Goods and Services in the 2001-based Consumer Shopping Basket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Expenditure Categories</th>
<th>No. of Items</th>
<th>Example of Goods and Services for which prices are collected to calculate the inflation rate</th>
<th>Frequency of price collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>Breakfast cereal, milk, coffee, juices, chicken, wine, vegetables, fruits, full-service meals, snacks</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Beer, stout, rum, whisky</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and Footwear</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Men’s pants, boys shorts, women’s dresses, brassieres, underwear, infant’s disposable diapers, watches, rings, bags</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rent paid, repairs and maintenance, property taxes, mortgage payments</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnishings, Supplies and Operations</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Sofas, mattress, kitchen cabinets, dressing table, rugs, linoleum, curtains, glassware; hourly wage rate</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and Light</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Electricity, LPG cooking gas</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Communication</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Cellular phones, cars, license, gasoline, insurance, driving permit</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Expenses</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Doctor’s bill, hospital care room rate, medicine</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tuition fees, books, school supplies, exam fees</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Services</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hair cut, pedicure, manicure, driving lessons</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Misc)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Body lotion, toothpaste, shampoo, carnival costumes, gym membership</td>
<td>Monthly, Quarterly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of goods and services in the basket | 442

Prices are collected from the second Monday to the second Thursday of every month.

1. *Outlets refer to the businesses where prices are collected (e.g. supermarkets). The same outlets are used for Food, Alcoholic Drink & Tobacco, and some Other (Misc) items.*

---

**What is the Consumer Price Index?**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a statistical indicator of changes in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by private households. The CPI measures price movements of a fixed quality and quantity of goods and services. The mix of these consumer goods and services comprising the CPI are referred to as a “shopping basket.” In constructing this “shopping basket,” the selected goods and services are organised first by commodity type. They are then divided into sections, then sub-groups and then assigned to a major expenditure category. The Antigua and Barbuda CPI has 26 sections, 30 sub-groups and 11 major categories.

**What is the Base Period?**

The base period (base year) is the time period that is used as a reference point for measuring the price change of goods and services. The base period for the Antigua and Barbuda CPI is January 2001.

The base period index is represented as 100.0. (Usually presented as 2001 = 100). So for instance, if the April 2010 CPI for chicken legs is 167.1, then it means that the price for chicken legs has gone up by 67.1% since 2001. Similarly, if the January 2010 CPI for bread is 93.1, then the price of bread has dropped by 6.9% compared to its price in 2001.

**What is Inflation?**

Inflation is the process of rising prices, resulting in diminishing purchasing power of a given amount of money. There are three expressions of price changes:
- year-on-year (the inflation rate)
- month-to-month
- annual average (or annualised average)

The annual average CPI is derived by summing the CPI for each month of the year and dividing by 12.

**What are Weights?**

Weights can be considered in the same way we would express how much we spend on various goods and services each month. Just like a monthly salary can be broken down as 20% on rent, 25% food, 15% mortgage, 10% on utilities and so on, the CPI weights are a collective expression of how households would generally spend their monthly income on goods and services.

The weights for this series of CPI were drawn from a survey of a sample of households in 2001 (the base period). Each household was asked to keep a record of their expenditure for one month. Once completed, the expenditures were added to determine the pattern. This pattern is what is referred to as the weights.

The current weights assume that each month, households would spend the most on Accommodation (218.3) followed by Food (214.2) and Transportation and Communication (153.5). Households would also spend the least on Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco (1.6).

**Index Points Contribution**

Contribution of each expenditure category (category weight over All Items weight) to the All Items index points change.

---

The compilation of the CPI and the calculation of the inflation rate involve the processing of hundreds of price quotations. The Statistics Division wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business community in supplying the required prices and accommodating the Statistical Officers on their premises. Price collection is authorised by the General Statistics Act, No. 13 of 1975.
## Table 2: CPI and Inflation Rate for Main Categories, Sub-groups and Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Category and Sub Groups</th>
<th>Jan 2001 weights</th>
<th>Consumer Price Indices</th>
<th>Year-on-Year % Change</th>
<th>Month-to-Month % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Items less Food</td>
<td>132.09</td>
<td>131.27</td>
<td>131.23</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Items less Energy</td>
<td>138.47</td>
<td>137.60</td>
<td>137.09</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Items</td>
<td>131.05</td>
<td>130.13</td>
<td>130.09</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food
- **Bakery & Cereal Products**: 100.00
- **Bakery**: 199.44
- **Cereal**: 124.66
- **Meats**: 225.02
- **Meat**: 59.92
- **Pork**: 37.71
- **Lamb**: 36.48
- **Mutton**: 51.99
- **Preserved Meat**: 153.39
- **Poultry**: 316.64
- **Fish**: 340.85
- **Dairy Products**: 93.37
- **Milk**: 614.06
- **Cheese**: 209.94
- **Eggs**: 176.00
- **Fats & Oils**: 33.11
- **Butter/Oil**: 1000.00
- **Fruits & Vegetables**: 185.81
- **Fruits**: 222.14
- **Vegetables**: 498.73
- **Starbucks**: 108.60
- **Sugar**: 39.29
- **Syrups**: 77.23
- **Jams & Jellies**: 17.80
- **Candy**: 113.27
- **Hot Beverages**: 15.30
- **Foods n.e.s**: 147.96
- **Condiments & Spices**: 230.21
- **Miscellaneous Food**: 159.46
- **Meals Out**: 610.33
- **Non-Alcoholic Beverages**: 60.68
- **ALCOHOLIC DRINK & TOBACCO**: 1.60
- **Alcoholic Beverages**: 888.15
- **Tobacco**: 111.85

### Clothing & Footwear
- **Clothing**: 755.67
- **Men's**: 274.10
- **Boys'**: 70.06
- **Women's**: 335.61
- **Girls'**: 65.87
- **Infants'**: 33.47
- **Accessories & Raw Materials**: 220.90
- **Footwear**: 244.33

### Accommodation
- **ACCOMMODATION**: 218.30

### Furnishings, Supplies & Operations
- **Furnishings, Fixtures & Floor Coverings**: 209.17
- **Household Textiles & Furnishings/ Soft Furnishings**: 66.19
- **Household Utensils**: 6.72
- **Household Appliances**: 263.73
- **Services, Household Operations & Goods**: 454.19

### Fuel & Light
- **FUEL & LIGHT**: 63.90

### Transportation & Communication
- **TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION**: 153.50
- **Communication Services**: 92.78
- **Operation of Personal Transportation**: 823.48
- **Repairs & Maintenance of Personal Transportation**: 35.48
- **Transport Services**: 48.26
- **MEDICAL EXPENSES**: 27.60
- **Private Practitioners**: 829.46
- **Pharmaceutical**: 170.54
- **Education**: 23.40
- **PERSONAL SERVICES**: 43.00
- **Personal Care**: 100.00
- **OTHER (MISCELLANEOUS)**: 17.90
- **Personal Effects**: 1000.00

### CPI Apr 2018

- All Items less Food: 132.09
- All Items less Energy: 138.47
- All Items: 131.05

---

*Note: CPI weights are approximate and may vary.*
Table 3: Distribution of Changes in the Inflation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>No. of categories</th>
<th>No. of Decreases</th>
<th>No. of Increases</th>
<th>No. of No Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2018 compared to Apr 2017</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Expenditure Level</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Group Level</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2018 compared to Mar 2017</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Expenditure Category Level</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Group Level</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2018 compared to Feb 2017</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Expenditure Category Level</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Group Level</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2018 compared to Mar 2018</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Group Level</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Apr 2018 compared to Apr 2017, 2 of the 11 main expenditure categories recorded price decreases, while 8 recorded price increases. 13 of the 26 sub-group levels also recorded price increases for some of the items that fall in that level. These collective increases and decreases would account for the magnitude and direction of the current inflation rate. 1 of the 11 main expenditure categories recorded no price changes.

Graphical Analysis of the Consumer Price Index

Chart 2: All Items Inflation Rate (%) Trend

![Chart 2: All Items Inflation Rate (%) Trend](image)

Table 3 outlines the distribution of price movements for four inflation periods:

- Apr 2018 compared to Apr 2017
- Mar 2018 compared to Mar 2017
- Feb 2018 compared to Feb 2017
- Apr 2018 compared to Mar 2018

Chart 3: Food Inflation Rate (%) Trend

![Chart 3: Food Inflation Rate (%) Trend](image)

**Featured Expenditure Category**

![Featured Expenditure Category](image)
Chart 4: Year-on-Year Inflation Rate (%) for Special Indices
compared to the ALL ITEMS Index for Apr 2017 to Apr 2018

Energy includes: Fuel & Light (Electricity; LPG/Cooking Gas) Gasoline at the pump

Chart 5: Month-to-Month Changes for ALL ITEMS

Chart 6: Monthly Fuel Variation Rate Trend: Jan 2006 to Apr 2018

Facilitating informed decision-making